

## Palestinians preparing for Israeli offensive

**AFP, Gaza City**  
Palestinian security forces conducted military exercises yesterday to prepare for a potential Israeli army incursion into the self-rule zones, a Palestinian official said.  
"The national security forces conducted training and manoeuvres on highways and in sensitive regions to prepare for a potential infiltration... or an Israeli assault in these regions," the high-ranking official told AFP on condition of anonymity.  
Witnesses said Palestinian forces have boosted their presence on the Gaza Strip's major highways, frequent sites of confrontation with Israeli soldiers.  
Israeli officials, hoping to put down a six-month-old Palestinian uprising, have made veiled threats of sending the army into areas put under Palestinian Authority control by the 1993 Oslo peace accords.  
General Abdelrazek al-Majida, the head of Palestinian public security for the Gaza Strip, on Thursday warned the Israeli army of "preparing to launch a major offensive against the Palestinian territories."  
Ahmed Helis, secretary general of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's



Woody (L) and Winnie (R) Woodpecker perform prior to the opening ceremony of the Universal Studios Japan in Osaka yesterday. US movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger and Universal Studios characters officiated at the opening ceremony before the doors opened to the general public.

## Taliban reject Iran's claims on blocking water flow

**AFP, Kabul**  
Afghanistan's Taliban yesterday dismissed Tehran's official complaint to the United Nations that the ruling militia had blocked the Hirmand river flow into neighbouring Iran.  
The accusations are politically-motivated and "in harmony with United Nations (UN) and the United States to exert pressure on the Afghan people," Taliban said in a statement here.  
It said the river, which flows normally into Iran after irrigating much of the southern Afghanistan, had dried up even at points where it originates, because of the severe drought, the worst in country's living memory.  
Iran last week wrote to the UN secretary general Kofi Annan charging that Taliban regime had cut off water supply from Hirmand river, seriously damaging Iranian agriculture.  
The 1,000 kilometre (620-mile) long river normally irrigates some 140,000 hectares (350,000 acres) of land in Iran's Zabol region.  
The statement said Taliban were honouring a 1972 bilateral agreement, which allowed only four cubic meters per second of water into Iran only as a gesture of good will.  
Based on this agreement, the Taliban allowed an Iranian fact-finding mission to travel to southern Afghanistan last year after the Hirmand river dried up on Iranian soil, it added.  
The Iranian Foreign Ministry had earlier handed over a "strong-worded" note to the Afghan Taliban authorities which was ignored because it was in contradiction with realities, it said.  
"This is the Iranians old habit to raise a hue and cry when they face any problem as such due to the drought."  
Taliban's Deputy Minister of Water and Power Mohammad Azam Elmi told reporters Saturday that the regime did not have the capability of diverting or blocking the water flow.  
"If we have surplus water, the Hirmand water will automatically flow into Iran. Everybody knows about the drought here."

## Romanian held for smuggling 71 Asians into Greece

**AFP, Athens**  
A Romanian truck driver has been arrested at the Greek-Turkish border on suspicion of trying to smuggle 71 illegal Asian immigrants into Greece, police said yesterday.  
They said the driver, and the Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals found in his truck, were to appear in court in the border town of Alexandroupolis in the next few days.

## DR Congo rebels ready for dialogue

**AFP, Goma**  
Rebels who have since August 1998 been locked in civil war with the Kinshasa government are ready to join the inter-Congolese dialogue that forms the next phase of the peace process, a rebel spokesman said here.  
"We would have wished to begin the dialogue on March 15, but that was not possible, and so we have proposed June," Kin Key Mumumba, spokesman for the Rwandan-backed Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD), told reporters late Friday.  
He was speaking after RCD leaders had held talks in Goma, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with the facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue, former Botswana president Ketumile Masire.  
Kin Key said there had during the talks been "convergence" on a number of points with which the RCD had raised objections.  
"We noted convergence, particularly on the status of the participants in the dialogue and on the venue for the talks," he said.  
"Everyone will come to the talks with the same status, all parties will be granted the same legitimacy to appoint the leaders of the transition."

## Hostages in good condition in Somalia: UN

**AFP, Nairobi**  
Two British UN security officers being held hostage in Mogadishu were examined by a doctor on Friday who found them to be in "good physical condition," a United Nations official said Saturday.  
The hostages, Bill Condie, 61, and Roger Carter, 41, "did not require medication of any kind," UN spokeswoman Sonya Laurence Green told AFP.

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## India successfully test fires Prithvi missile

**AFP, New Delhi**  
India yesterday successfully test-fired a medium-range guided missile which can transport a nuclear warhead well within the territories of either Pakistan or China, officials said.  
A "Prithvi" (Earth) surface-to-surface missile blasted off from a launcher truck at 11:30 a.m. (12:00 BST) at a national test range in the eastern Indian state of Orissa, said officials from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).  
The flight of the missile was tracked by radars, telescopes, tele-



A unidentified Danish volunteer struggles while trying to clean the shores of the island of Faroe from an oil slick yesterday. Some 1,900 liters of oil were spilled into the Baltic Sea between Germany and Denmark after oil tanker Baltic Carrier was rammed by a freighter on Wednesday.

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## TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES MARCH 31, 2001

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DSE			CSE			Financial Performance				DSE			CSE			Financial Performance							
Company	FV/ML (Tk. No.)	Price (Closing)	Change (%)	Pre. Day	Turnover	Share	Last AGM	EPS	DPS	Div. Yield (%)	Company	FV/ML (Tk. No.)	Price (Closing)	Change (%)	Pre. Day	Turnover	Share	Last AGM	EPS	DPS	Div. Yield (%)		
<b>BANK</b>											<b>Indicators</b>												
AB Bank Ltd	100.5	170.00	-0.87	171.50	9580		26.10.00	1.64	12.5	7.50	All Share Price Index	625.99710	1378.78	7.78	7.78	1378.78	1378.78	1378.78	1378.78	1378.78	1378.78	1378.78	
City Bank Ltd	100.5	168.00	0.00	168.00	15		20.11.99	90.1			Change in Price Index	-0.35245%	-0.0051%										
IFIC Bank Ltd	100.5	185.50	-1.82	192.00	1250		27.07.97	202			Total Turnover (Volume)	111,682,725.50	42,796,295.75	3.53	3.53	42,796,295.75	42,796,295.75	42,796,295.75	42,796,295.75	42,796,295.75	42,796,295.75	42,796,295.75	
Islami Bank Ltd	1000.1	243.50	-9.99	220.75	1340		24.08.00	9.91	220.00	98	No. of Issued Shares	36	13										
National Bank Ltd	100.20	225.75	0.00	225.75	7612		18.11.00	18.3	200		No. of Issued Loans	103	35										
Pubali Bank Ltd	100.5	161.00	-8.00	175.00	20		23.12.99	40.6			Market Cap. (Tk.)	60,097,132,557	56,832,428,296	9.4	9.4	56,832,428,296	56,832,428,296	56,832,428,296	56,832,428,296	56,832,428,296	56,832,428,296		
Rugali Bank Ltd	100.10	75.50	0.00	75.50	570		20.03.99	40.6			Market Cap. (US\$)	1,112,354,307	1,082,452,376	2.3	2.3	1,082,452,376	1,082,452,376	1,082,452,376	1,082,452,376	1,082,452,376	1,082,452,376		
FCBL	100.5	207.00	-1.42	105.50	365		15.09.99	15.6			Total No. of Listed Companies	224	153										
Uttara Bank Ltd	100.5	44.00	-5.00	240.00	330		24.11.98	4.98			Total No. of Listed Mutual Fund	10	10										
IDBI Ltd	100.20	481.00	-8.82	485.00	40		21.05.00	37.3	27.5		Total No. of Listed Debenture	10	4										
Uttara Finance and Inv.	100.50	232.00	-0.54	230.75	8500		20.06.00	23.4	15.0		Total No. of Share & Debenture	525,329,810	414,612,267	78.2	78.2	414,612,267	414,612,267	414,612,267	414,612,267	414,612,267	414,612,267		
Al Arifa Islami Bank	1000.5	1137.00	-1.71	1115.00	500		5.11.00	181	12.0		Total Issued Capital	31,266,658,240	27,095,487,900	86.7	86.7	27,095,487,900	27,095,487,900	27,095,487,900	27,095,487,900	27,095,487,900	27,095,487,900		
Prime Bank Ltd	100.50	301.75	-1.71	307.00	900		14.03.00	79.9	30.0		Price Earning Ratio	91.7	241										
Southeast Bank Ltd	100.50	224.00	-0.22	224.50	12650		17.09.00	28.4	15.0		Earning Per Share (%)	25.66	25.5										
Dhaka Bank Ltd	100.50	243.00	0.62	241.50	3500		21.06.00	43.3	25.0														
N.C.C Bank Ltd	100.50	158.00	-1.40	161.25	2130		15.08.00	-1.25	160.00	8750													
Social Investment	1000.5	1032.50	-6.72	967.50	975		---	---	---	---													
Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd	100.50	334.00	-1.33	338.50	28250		---	---	---	---													
<b>INVESTMENT</b>											<b>Turnover Leaders</b>												
3rd ICB Mutual Fund	100.5	409.00	-0.99	405.00	5		02.11.00	14.4	40.0		<b>Dhaka Stock Exchange</b>												
4th ICB Mutual Fund	100.10	375.00	-2.74	365.00	30		02.11.00	8.0	36.0		Beximco Pharma	209,800	12,521	11.21									
5th ICB Mutual Fund	100.10	145.00	1.22	143.25	110		02.11.00	22.4	15.0		Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd	82,250	9,479	8.43									
6th ICB Mutual Fund	100.10	135.50	-0.37	135.00	200		02.11.00	15.9	12.5		Sambata Leather	72,850	6,314	7.51									
1st BSRIS Mutual Fund	100.50	71.50	-0.69	72.00	100		---	---	---	---	Rose Heaven Ball Pen	390,500	5,537	4.96									
MMSF Fund	12500	0.95	-1.04	0.96	187500		---	---	---	---	Chic Text Ltd	586,000	4,951	4.34									
<b>ENGINEERING</b>											<b>Chittagong Stock Exchange</b>												
Altaf Automobiles Ltd.	100.5	210.00	1.20	207.50	1555		14.12.00	18.9	16.0		Raspi Data Management	763,500	10,697	24.99									
Ariz Pipes Ltd.	100.5	259.00	-0.19	259.50	415		14.09.00	-3.1			Rose Heaven Ball Pen	490,500	7,014	16.39									
Olympic Industries Ltd.	100.5	129.50	-9.96	130.75	13940		09.10.00	-2.5			Quasam Drycells Ltd.	273,300	4,739	11.07									
Bangladesh Lamps Ltd.	100.5	501.50	-0.15	502.25	125		25.09.00	4.1	15.0		Beximco Pharma	70,950	4,238	9.70									
Eastern Cables Ltd.	100.5	130.00	-0.76	131.00	2410		12.06.00	8.1	15.0		Chic Text Ltd	506,500	4,174	9.75									
Singer Bangladesh Ltd.	100.5	221.00	-0.81	123.00	45		27.05.04	6.4	50.0		Chic Text Ltd	506,500	4,174	9.75									
Atlas Bangladesh Ltd.	10.50	132.00	0.00	132.00	200		14.12.02	8.76	10.0		N.C.C Bank Ltd.	21,250	3,353	3.00									
BD Autocare Ltd.	100.5	24.00	0.00	24.00	10		30.12.97	11.6			<b>Capital Gainers</b>												
Quasam Drycells Ltd.	100.50	17.40	-0.57	17.50	360100		23.12.99	11.1	10.0		Beximco Pharma	209,800	12,521	11.21									
National Tubes Ltd.	100.10	534.00	-2.91	550.00	70		---	---	---	---	Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd	82,250	9,479	8.43									
Q & Q Aluminium	100.10	199.00	0.22	197.00	40		28.09.00	19.2	20.0		Sambata Leather	72,850	6,314	7.51									
Kes & Kes (BD) Ltd.	100.50	101.75	0.00	101.75	350		28.09.00	1.6			Rose Heaven Ball Pen	390,500	5,537	4.96									
Wonders Land Toys Ltd.	100.50	26.00	-0.95	26.25	500		30.12.00	-5.9			Chic Text Ltd	586,000	4,951	4.34									
Kanepar Foodery Ltd.	100.50	21.40	-1.83	21.80	71000		06.07.00	13.9	15.0		Chic Text Ltd	586,000	4,951	4.34									
<b>FOOD &amp; ALLIED</b>											<b>Capital Losers</b>												
Amam Sea Food Ltd.	100.5	200.00	-4.76	210.00	25		10.12.00	-4.2			Petro Synthetic Ltd.	-10.00	0.45										
Apex Foods Ltd.	100.5	361.50	-1.36	368.50	595		09.12.00	16.0	10.0		Maq Engineering Ltd.	20.00	1.35										